

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2010**

**PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 321H-4,
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE
NEUROTRAUMA SPECIAL FUND**

PREPARED BY:

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
December 2009**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 321H-4, the Department of Health is submitting an annual report on the activities of the neurotrauma special fund.

The neurotrauma special fund was established in 2002 by Act 160 for funding and contracting for services relating to neurotrauma. Funds are acquired through surcharges on traffic citations (speeding, drunk driving, not wearing seat belts, leaving the scene of an accident involving bodily injury) that are related to causes of neurotrauma injuries.

Effective January 1, 2003, surcharges from the specified traffic citations were deposited into the special fund. The Department of Health (DOH) has worked with neurotrauma survivors and their families to identify priorities for expenditure of monies in the special fund. The prioritized need was for assistance to access services and supports. The Neurotrauma Advisory Board (NTAB) provides stakeholder input into the DOH's neurotrauma activities and advisory recommendations regarding the special fund.

In January 2009, three positions (which were funded by the Neurotrauma Special Fund) assigned to develop and implement neurotrauma activities were abolished. This has caused a significant impact to the ability of the DOH to sustain the neurotrauma help line, neurotrauma registry, educational activities and promotion of neurotrauma awareness statewide as well as the ability to implement new activities and contracts. During the legislative session of 2009, a total of \$750,000 was transferred out of the Special Fund to aid in the State's general revenue shortfall. This loss of funds will have a negative impact on the DOH's ability to implement activities allowed in 321H-4, HRS, Neurotrauma Special Fund.

In compliance with 321H, HRS, the DOH established a Neurotrauma Advisory Board and an infrastructure "to develop, lead, administer, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and set direction for a comprehensive system to support and provide services for survivors of neurotrauma injuries." The highlight of the effort between the NTAB, DOH and the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii was the 2008 Neurotrauma Conference, "Hope Blooms Through the Night." This conference reflected the positive working relationships between all involved and demonstrated the collaborative efforts amongst stakeholders to make this conference a success.

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 321H-4, H.R.S.

An annual report on the activities under the neurotrauma special fund.

Introduction

Act 160, signed into law on June 7, 2002, mandated the Department of Health (DOH) to “develop, lead, administer, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and set direction for a comprehensive system to support and provide services for survivors of neurotrauma injuries.” The Act also required the DOH to establish a neurotrauma advisory board and administer a neurotrauma special fund. The neurotrauma special fund started to accumulate monies January 1, 2003. This report provides a status report on the fund activities for the period of October 2008 to September 2009.

Neurotrauma Advisory Board

The Neurotrauma Advisory Board was established, per Act 160, to advise the DOH on the use of the neurotrauma special fund and development of a system of supports for persons with neurotrauma. The Board’s membership constitutes key stakeholder group representation on a statewide basis and has developed a strategic plan to carryout their functions. There are 4 working sub-committees – 1) Outreach; 2) Special Fund; 3) Legislative; and 4) Registry (the latter two joint with the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board). Current members of the Board are listed in Attachment I.

Use of the Neurotrauma Special Fund

Chapter 321H-4, H.R.S. specifies that the neurotrauma special fund shall be used as follows: (1) education, (2) assistance to obtain access to services, (3) creation of a registry of neurotrauma injuries, and (4) necessary administrative expenses.

Effective January 2009, three DOH positions that were funded by the neurotrauma fund were abolished. Their duties included planning and coordination of neurotrauma awareness/education activities, information and referral supports for individuals with neurotrauma and their families, support to access services, support to the Neurotrauma and State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Boards, needs assessment, neurotrauma trending, and systems analysis. This has impacted the ability of the DOH to conduct activities in the areas of community outreach, neurotrauma education and awareness, registry development and updating of the neurotrauma website. Partnerships and collaborations with other public and private entities involved in neurotrauma related activities have been kept to a minimum due to the lack of staffing available.

The neurotrauma special fund currently funds contracts in the areas of education and assistance to individuals and families to obtain access to services.

(1) Educational activities:

DOH staff have engaged in numerous educational activities in the areas of, but not limited to: 1) staff development; 2) participation in conferences; 3) public exhibits; 4) outreach to neighbor islands; 5) dissemination of educational materials to board members and list serve; and 6) utilization of the neurotrauma special fund to procure education- related activities.

DOH continues to provide education through a contract with the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIA-HI) implemented on April 10, 2007. The BIA-HI, in collaboration with the State Neurotrauma Advisory Board (SNTAB) and the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB) is contracted to develop and implement educational and awareness activities and a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. Activities which are to be provided under the contract include: planning and coordinating the Neurotrauma Conference, which was held in October, 2008; maintenance of a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Speakers Bureau; increasing the number of professionals who are certified as Brain Injury Specialists; and conducting a statewide TBI Community Needs and Resource Assessment.

An activity contained in the contract with the BIA-HI is to develop, coordinate, and maintain a Brain Injury Specialist Program through the American Academy for the Certification of Brain Injury Specialist. By the end of the contract period, the BIA-HI is to train and certify a total of 16 professionals who provide services to individuals with brain injuries. To date, the BIA-HI has trained and certified a total of nine (9) professionals.

In April 2009, the DOH executed a contract with the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine to conduct a study on fall prevention amongst the elderly. The goals of the research study is to determine if a multi-disciplinary fall prevention program can decrease the number of recurrent falls in elderly patients who are treated at the Queen's Medical Center's Emergency Department. This study will provide educational benefits for service providers and survivors of falls to identify interventions that lead to a reduction in injury, specifically brain injury. Prevention of recurrent falls will assist at-risk seniors to lead an improved quality of life and also reduce the medical costs associated with a fall.

DOH staff will continue in their efforts to promote education and awareness activities through partnerships and collaborations with the respective advisory boards and community stakeholders statewide.

(2) Assistance to individuals and families to identify and obtain access to service activities:

The DOH is in the last year of its contract with the Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (University of Hawaii – Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine) to design, develop and implement a peer-mentoring project for individuals with TBI. This project is funded jointly by a federal TBI grant and the neurotrauma special fund. The purpose of this project is to train 25 mentors and pair them with 25 peers (persons with TBI) to provide assistance to seek and utilize social services. Efforts by the contractor include the development of a brochure, development of a training program, and recruitment of potential mentors and

peers. A DOH Neurotrauma Help Line was established to assist individuals and families to access information. The Help Line provides screening, information and referral to assist individuals and their family members.

The DOH has developed a TBI Informational Discharge Folder and a Stroke Informational Discharge Folder to be provided to medical facilities for survivors and families upon their discharge. These folders are made available to service providers such as the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific (RHOP) and Queen's Medical Center (QMC). During the year, a total of 400 Stroke Informational Discharge Folders was sent out to Straub Hospital, Castle Medical Center, Wahiawa General Hospital, and Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. A total of 110 TBI Informational Discharge Folders was also sent out to the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific.

The quarterly neurotrauma newsletter has been discontinued due to the loss of neurotrauma staff. The neurotrauma website is operational; however, updates to the site are minimal due to the loss of staff.

(3) Development of a registry within the State to identify incidence, prevalence, needs, and related information of survivors of neurotrauma injuries:

Utilizing efforts of the State Neurotrauma and Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Boards' joint registry subcommittee, the DOH partners with the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse (HHDW) to create a neurotrauma registry with the Department's data warehouse. Critical elements of the registry have been developed and outlined. The HHDW has developed an online database.

An in-house registry was initiated in July 2005 for all those clients involved with the program since its inception in June 2002. As of September 2009 there 240 individuals in the registry.

(4) Necessary administrative expenses to carry out this chapter.

Utilization of funds under this category has been expended (\$27,442) for various educational and awareness activities on a statewide basis that is consistent with goals and objectives set forth by the STBIAB, NTAB and DOH.

Collection and Expenditure of Funds

In FY 2009, a total of \$832,638 has been deposited into the fund from traffic surcharge collections. During that period of time, \$99,997 has been expended for positions. An additional \$27,442 has been used for educational activities for persons with neurotrauma. As of July 1, 2009, there was a balance of \$2,021,110 in the Neurotrauma Special Fund.

A projected budget for the Neurotrauma Special Fund is provided in Attachment II. The budget reflects activities authorized under Chapter 321H-4, H.R.S.

Summary

Following the Legislative intent of Act 160, the DOH will continue its efforts toward the development of a neurotrauma system of supports to assist survivors of neurotrauma injuries and their families. The State Neurotrauma Advisory Board and the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Boards have each progressed in their efforts to become an effective advisory body to the DOH. Due to the loss of DOH personnel, consideration should be given to the establishment of one advisory board.

During the current year, the DOH will develop with the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship Training Program with the primary focus on pediatric prevention of neurotrauma injuries, creating physician capacity to serve individuals with neurotrauma injury, and assist survivors and family members to access needed supports and services in their communities. The DOH will summon the assistance and advice of the advisory boards and interested stakeholders to formulate a plan of action to meet these goals. The DOH recognizes the impact of further reductions to the Neurotrauma Special Fund beyond the \$750,000 transferred out to the State's general fund in FY '09. Additional reductions to the Special Fund will reduce the ability of the DOH to meet all the goals of prevention and education as well as its ability to restore any neurotrauma funded positions that provided assistance to neurotrauma survivors and their families to attain access to services.

Attachment I

NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD
Chapter 321H-3, HRS

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Term/representation

Eric Tash
Program Manager
Injury Prevention and Control Program
Department of Health

At-Large

Joyce Arizumi

Spinal Cord Injury Support
Group/Survivor

Lyna Burian

Traumatic Brain Injury Family Member

Joe Cordova
Administrator
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services
for the Blind Division
Department of Human Services

At-Large

Angie Enoka

Brain Injury Assoc.
Representative/Survivor

Elzadia Kaina, R.N.
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

STBIAB Chairperson

Greg Keast
Case Management Coordinator
HMSA

Private Sector

Sally Jones, R.N.
Queen's Trauma Center
Queen's Medical Center

Trauma Center

Ian Mattoch, Esq.

At-Large

Glenn Morgan

Spinal Cord Injury Survivor

Alan Parker
Executive on Aging
Hawaii County Office of Aging

At-Large

Scott Sagum

Stroke Survivor

Karen Seth
Manager, Neuroscience Institute
Queen's Medical Center

Private

Lori Suan
Director, State Health Alliance
Heart and Stroke Initiatives
American Heart/American Stroke Association

Milton Takara

Curtis Tom, DDS

Stella Wong
Vice President
Elderly Services Programs
Catholic Charities of Hawaii

Stroke Association (Chair)

Brain Injury Assoc.
Representative/Survivor

Stroke Survivor

At-Large

Attachment II

Projected Budget for the Neurotrauma Special Fund
FY 10

Balance as of 7/1/09	\$2,021,110
Estimated Revenues FY 2010	\$ 755,896

Projected Expenditures

Contracts

1. University of Hawaii – Manoa	
a. Peer Mentoring Project	\$ 144,000
b. Fall Prevention Study	\$ 75,000
c. JABSOM Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship Program	\$ 600,000
2. Brain Injury Association – Hawaii	\$ 30,000

Act 79/2009 Transfer to General Fund	\$ 750,000
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Education/Awareness Activities	\$ 30,000
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Administrative Expenses

1. Travel (Neighbor Island, Out of State Conferences)	\$ 5,000
2. Materials and Supplies	\$ 5,000

Total Expenses	\$ 1,639,000
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Estimated Fund Balance as of 6/30/10	\$ 1,138,006
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